

# CIA OPERATIONS CENTER

## NEWS SERVICE

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POD 1 (CARTER, WASHINGTON 44P-647)

CARTER WAS ASKED ABOUT THE CONVICTION OF FORMER CIA DIRECTOR RICHARD HELMS FOR LYING TO A CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE ABOUT CIA ACTIVITIES IN CHILE. HELMS' ATTORNEY, EDWARD BENNETT WILLIAMS, CALLED THE CONVICTION "A BRIDGE OF HONOR"; BUT CARTER SAID, "IT IS NOT A BRIDGE OF HONOR; AND A PUBLIC OFFICIAL DOES NOT HAVE A RIGHT TO LIE."

CARTER SAID THE DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT TO PERMIT HELMS TO PLEA BARGAIN RATHER THAN FACE A TRIAL WAS "THE BEST JUDGMENT WE COULD MAKE) ON THE SECURITY OF THE NATION. IT WAS THE RIGHT DECISION AND THE BEST DECISION. IT DOES NOT CONDONE LYING. IT DOES UPHOLD THE LAW AND I THINK IT DOES UPHOLD AS BEST WE COULD THE SECURITY OF THE COUNTRY."

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